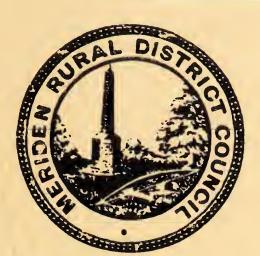
3. Mr Perry





RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

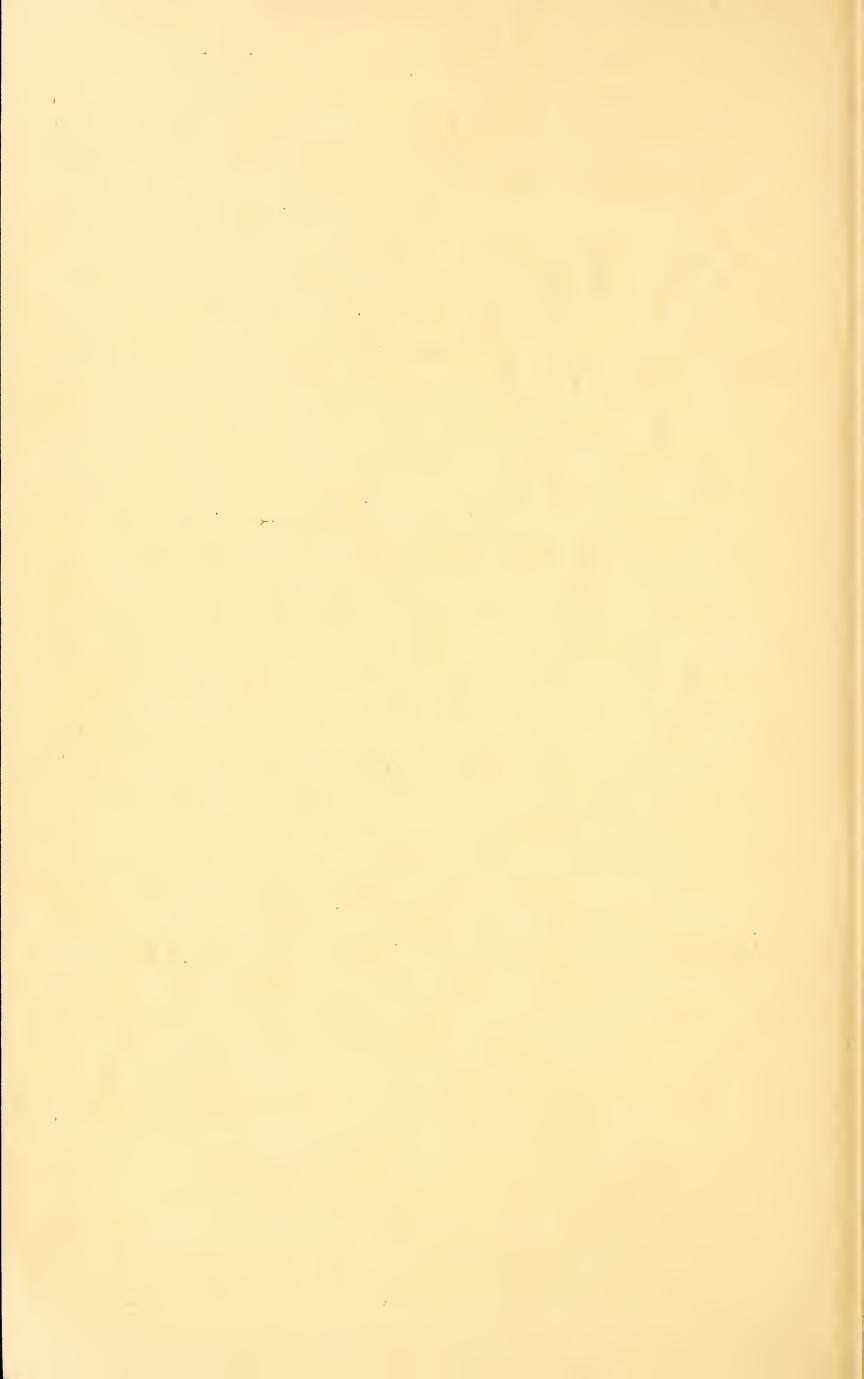
ANNUAL REPORT

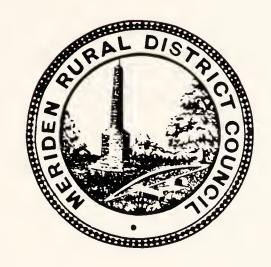
of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1969





RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1969



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To the Chairman and Members of the Meriden Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the state of the health of the Meriden Rural District for the year 1969.

The vital statistics, provided by the Registrar General, for the year under review show clearly the extent of the demographic changes which have occurred during this period. The mid-year estimate of population is 89,840, representing an increase of 19,480 over the previous year. The natural increase, arising from the excess in the number of births over deaths, accounts for 1,074 of the total increase. The remainder is due, almost entirely, to the growth in the number of families being re-housed into the parishes of Castle Bromwich, Chelmsley, Fordbridge and Kingshurst. The increase of 19,480, when compared with 7,430 the previous year, clearly indicates the accelerated growth in the total population.

The upward swing in the birth rate, noted in the Annual Report for 1968 and reversing the previous downward trend, has continued. It is now 18.6 per 1,000 population as compared with 17.01 for the previous year. This is a reflection of the fecundity of the families now being re-housed in the District.

The trend in the death rate continues in a downward direction and has now reached a level of 6.6 per 1,000 population from its previous 7.03.

When, after adjustment to make allowance for the differing age structure in the population, one compares the local statistics with the national figures, it will be observed that the adjusted local birth rate of 15·1 per 1,000 population is apporaching the national rate of 16·3. The ratio of the two has risen from 0·83 in 1968 to 0·92. The adjusted local death rate has, on the other hand, shown a slight trend downwards, the ratio with national rate having fallen from 0·87 to 0·85.

The health of the community has on the whole remained satisfactory. There was a welcome reduction in the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year. Measles accounted for half of the notifications, and even here the number was the lowest since 1960.

There was one serious outbreak of food poisoning during May, when, a few hours following a wedding reception, some guests were taken ill and a number were admitted to hospital. Investigations which were carried out at an hotel where the reception had taken place and which lay outside the District, implicated some Emperor prawns which had been imported into the country.

The rapidly expanding housing development in the western part of the District, within Smoke Control Areas and lacking facilities for the burning of soiled dressings and other medical refuse arising from the domiciliary nursing services, had shown a clear need for the separate collection and hygienic disposal of these items. The Council accepted the recommendations of the Public Health Committee and in the latter half of the year a special service for the collection of medical refuse was instituted and arrangements made for its disposal by incineration. This service has been greatly welcomed, not the least by the domiciliary nurses themselves.

Throughout the year the Meals on Wheels service has continued to provide the elderly housebound with cooked meals in their own homes. The total number of meals supplied during 1969 was 15,241; an increase of over 20% on the previous year.

The Luncheon Clubs which were started in 1968 have proved most successful and further clubs were formed in New Arley, Chelmsley Wood and Kingshurst. The expansion in both the Meals on Wheels service and Luncheon Clubs has made extra demands on the members of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, to which they have responded magnificently. This work, undertaken on behalf of the Council, is of inestimable value in safeguarding the health of the elderly by ensuring adequate nutrition and is greatly appreciated.

I am once again indebted to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Haines, for his contribution to this Report and to the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. Stephenson, for providing information relating to sewerage, sewage disposal and refuse collection.

In presenting this Report, I should like to express my grateful appreciation of the kind co-operation I have received from the Chairman of the Council, Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and all Members of the Council.

My sincere thanks are also given to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and efficient service during the year, and to the other Chief Officers and their staffs for their ready willingness to co-operate at all times.

> J. E. PEARSON, Medical Officer of Health.

Park Road, COLESHILL. August, 1970.

MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL 1969

Chairman of the Council:

B. F. COCKERSOLE

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

K. BRADLEY MILLER

Clerk of the Council:

RAYMOND E. HALE, F.C.I.S.

Public Health Committee: 1969-70

Antrobus, W. Earle, R. J. Mitchell, P. J.
Boakes, G. W. R. Edwards, N. A. Mold, B. A.
Bradley Miller, K. Elliman, P. T. Wallace, Mrs. D. V.
Cockersole, B. F. Kelsey, E. J. O. Willis, H. C.
Cosgrove, M. J. Meddings, R. W.

Housing Committee: 1969-70

Allen, F. C. Cosgrove, M. J. Martin, Mrs. L. E. Aylesford, Earl of Jackson, Mrs. V. L. Sakne, E. Boakes, G. W. R. Kellie, P. F. Truman, Mrs. M. J. Bradley Miller, K. Kelsey, H. Wyldebore-Smith A.R. Cockersole, B. F. Lowe, G. H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. PEARSON, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(Also Area Medical Officer, North Western Area, Warwickshire County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

A. L. J. CUSACK, B.A., M.B., Ch.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Also Senior (Clinical) Medical Officer, Warwickshire County Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. HAINES, M.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. B. STOKES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

W. W. G. CUTTS, M.A.P.H.I.
R. L. TUDGE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
B. H. HALES, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.
E. FOSTER, M.A.P.H.I., D.M.A.

Senior Administrative Officer:

J. D. MYNARD, L.M.R.S.H.

Council Offices:

Council House, Coleshill.

Telephone: Coleshill 63141.

Office of the Medical Officer of Health:

Area Health Office,
Park Road,
Coleshill.

Telephone: Coleshill 62331-2.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	65,774
Population (estimated Mid. 1969)	89,840
Population (Census 1951)	38,075
Population (Census 1961)	57,520
No. of inhabited dwellings (Dec. 1969)	
Rateable value (at 1st April, 1969)	£3,124,715
Product of a penny rate	£12,377

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate Illegitimate	821 55	754 41	1575 96
Totals	876	795	1671

Birth Rate

18.60 per 1,000 estimated population

j	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
	18.60	17.01	15.64	15.98	17.66	18.65	18.58	19.37	19.60	20.20

Illegitimate Live Births. (Per cent. of total Live Births) = 6.00

Still Births

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	10	15
Illegitimate		1	1
Totals	5	11	16

Still Birth Rate

9.00 per 1,000 total (live and still) births

1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
9.00	12.38	13.04	9.10	17.94	18.11	18.86	20.08	16.5	14.52

Total live and Still births = 1687

Deaths

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes	 323	274	597

Crude Death Rate

6.6 per 1,000 estimated population

1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
6.60	7.03	7.36	7.65	7.34	6.81	7.41	7.06	7.11	7.33

Classified Causes of Death.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Bacillary Dysentry, Amoebiasis	1		1
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	[1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc			$\tilde{2}$
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus		3	2 3
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach		6	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine		10	20
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx		10	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	25	6	31
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast		11	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus		6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	5	U	
Leukaemia		$\frac{}{2}$	5 5
Other Malignant Neoplasms		14	_
Danian and Unanagified Maanlagma			30
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	3	3 2
Diabetes Mellitus	_	1	
Avitaminoses, etc	-		1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases		1	2
Anaemias		1	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.		_	l
Mental Disorders		1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc	8 5	2	10
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease		3	8
Hypertensive Disease	8	10	18
Ischaemic Heart Disease	84	58	142
Other Forms of Heart Disease	15	12	27
Cerebrovascular Disease		39	66
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	11	9	20
Influenza	3	3	6
Pneumonia	22	24	46
Bronchitis and Emphysema	16	5	21
Asthma		3	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3 2	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	2	i	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia		4	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	4	5	9
Nephritis and Nephrosis		5 3	2 4 2 9 3 2 3
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	2 2	_	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	$\bar{2}$	1	$\bar{3}$
Other Complications of Pregnancy, etc.		1	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	î	2
Congenital Anomalies	7	4	11
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	4	1	5
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	3	1	4
Symptons and Ill Defined conditions	2	$\frac{1}{2}$	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	$\frac{2}{2}$	8
All other accidents	6	12	18
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	5	12	
	$\frac{3}{2}$	1	6
All other external causes	2	1	3
Total all causes	322	274	597

Population and Birth and Death Ratio.

		Estimated	Total Live	Total	Birth and
Year		Population	Births	Deaths	Death ratio
1959		54,590	1,042	384	+658
1960		56,960	1,153	418	+735
1961		57,750	1,132	411	+721
1962		60,430	1,171	427	+744
1963		62,430	1,160	463	+697
1964		64,240	1,261	446	+815
1965		61,890	1,093	454	+639
1966	• •	61,320	980	469	+511
1967	• •	62,930	984	463	+521
1968		70,360	1,197	495	+702
1 9 69		89,840	1,671	597	+1,074

Maternal Deaths .. One.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	16	9	25
Illegitimate	_	-	-
Totals	16	9	25

Infant Mortality Rate.

15.00 per 1,000 births.

1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
15.00	21.72	13.21	17.35	12.72	15.20	12.93	18.78	15.01	17.34

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	12	4	16
Illegitimate	_	_	_
Totals	12	4	16

Neo-natal Death Rate 10.00 per 1,000 live births. (first four weeks)

Infant Deaths (under 1 week of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	10	4	14
Illegitimate	_	-	_
T 1	4.0		
Totals	10	4	14

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (under one week) 8.00 per 1,000 total live births

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)

18.0

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 16.0

Comparative Birth and Death Rates per 1,000 population.

	Meriden Rural District	England and Wales (provisional)	Ratio of Local Adjusted Rate to National Rate
Births			
Live Births Still Births	*15.1 9.0 (a)	16.3 13.0	0.92
DEATHS			
All causes Infant Mortality	*10.2	11.9	0.85
(under 1 year) Neo-natal Mortality	15.0 (b)	18.0	
(under 4 weeks) Early Neo-natal Mortality	10.0 (b)	12.0	
(under 1 week) Perinatal Mortality (Stillbirths and deaths under 1	8.0 (b)	10.0	
week)	18.0 (a)	23.0	

^{*} Using comparability factors (Births 0.81 and Deaths 1.54).

⁽a) per 1,000 total live and still births.

⁽b) per 1,000 live births.

Cancer.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Deaths all Forms	 67	61	128

Cancer Death Rate = 1.4 per 1,000 estimated population.

Population

The mid-year estimate of the Registrar General was 89,840—an increase of 19,480 from the 1968 total of 70,360.

Births

The standardised Birth Rate of 15.1 per 1,000 estimated population was lower than the figure of 16.3 for England and Wales.

Deaths

The standardised Death Rate of 10.2 per 1,000 population was lower than that of 11.9 for England and Wales. The pattern of the chief causes of death remained largely unchanged with heart disease, cancer and vascular disease of the central nervous system predominating in the order given. Cancer in various forms caused 128 deaths. Of these, 31 were due to lung cancer—one more than last year—affecting 25 males and 6 females.

Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for six male and two female deaths.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Those cases during the year which were assessed for admission to chronic sick or residential accommodation were admitted appropriately on a voluntary basis, and in no instance was statutory action on my part necessary for compulsory removal under Section 47 of the Act.

SECTION B.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1969.

Notifiable Disease	(Com		ve figi	ares fo			renthe	esis)	Total
TOTAL DISCUSE	At all ages	Un- der 1	1-5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–65	65 and up- w'ds.	cases re- moved to Hospital
Measles	206 (652)	24	116	62	4	_	_	_	_
Whooping Cough	5 (56)	1	2	1	1	_	_	-	_
Diphtheria		-	_	~	-	_	_	_	_
Enteric Fever	(-)	_	-	-	_	_	_	_	_
Scarlet Fever	10 (35)	-	5	5	_	_	-	_	-
Malaria	_	-	-		-	-	_	_	-
Dysentery	(-) 86 (98)	2	21	44	3	16	_	_	
Meningococcal Infection	(-)	_	-	_	_	-	_	_	
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	_ (-)	_	-	_	-	-	-	_	
Non-paralytic	_ (-)	_	_	-	_	-	_	_	_
Acute Infective Encephalitis	_ (-)	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_
Encephalitis Lethargica	(–)	_	_	-	_	_	_		_
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6 (3)	6	-	-	_	-	-	-	_
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8 (2)	_	-	-	5	1	2		-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4 (4)	_	-	-	1	-	3	_	-
Food Poisoning	35 (4)	_	3	8	5	-	12	7	20
Infective Hepatitis	38 (37)	-	3	25	4	5	1	-	1
Totals	398 (904)	33	150	145	23	22	18	7	21

Total Cases of Infectious Disease notified during previous years.

Notifiable Disease	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Measles	206	652	549	588	1,077	379	1,028	93	1,980	21
Whooping Cough	5	56	48	63	31	25	40	11	49	71
Diphtheria	***	_	-	-	-	_	-	-	_	
Erysipelas*	_	1	3	1	2	_	4	6	2	4
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	35	11	16	28	25	15	15	36	35
Pneumonia*	-	4	1	12	13	13	16	17	35	23
Malaria	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	
Dysentery	8 6	98	31	72	22	106	90	158	46	48
Puerperal Pyrexia*	_	8	24	7	45	9	91	7 9	98	67
Meningococcal Infection	_	_	-	_	_	-	1	1	1	1
Acute Poliomye- litis: Paralytic	-	_	_	_	_		-	-	-	aga
Non-paralytic	_	_		_	_	_	_	_	_	-
Acute Infective Encephalitis	_	_	_	-	_	-	_	_	_	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	3	_	3	3	_	43	22	9	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	2	5	12	18	12	9	19	27	19
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	4	2	4	4	2	4	3	4	4
Food Poisoning	35	4	18	3	_	_	8	9	7	17
Infective Hepatitis	38	37	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	_
Totals	398	904	692	781	1,243	571	1,349	433	2,294	313

^{*} These diseases ceased to be notified after 30th September, 1968.

General Comment

In comparison with the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1968, there has been a decrease in total from 904 to 398.

Measles

The number of cases of measles notified during the year was less than one third of that notified in 1968. The previous pattern of bi-ennial increase in incidence is now no longer evident.

It is very disappointing to record that, after the extremely good response following the introduction of measles vaccination in May last year, the number of vaccinations carried out during the whole of 1969 was only one fifth of the previous year.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Measles in 1969.

Age	Vaccinations
0–1	129
2–5	104
6–15	38
Total	271

Whooping Cough

The number of cases reported decreased from 56 to 5.

The following table gives details of the number of children who have received protection against whooping cough. Since combined antigens are used almost exclusively, they will also have received protection against diphtheria and tetanus.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Whooping Cough in 1969.

		Age at Date of Injection								
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total				
Primary	343	1,170	55	35	8	1,611				
Reinforcing	4	115	61	118	3	301				
Totals	347	1,285	116	153	11	1,912				

Diphtheria

For the twentieth successive year no cases of diphtheria have been notified. This reflects both the efficacy of the vaccine and its acceptance by parents.

Table showing number of children Immunised against Diphtheria during 1969.

(Comparative figures for 1968 are given in parentheses)

		Age at date of injection						
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	Total		
Primary	349 (298)	1,408 (681)	80 (44)	139 (100)	84 (73)	2,060 (1,196)		
Re-inforcing	9 (-)	490 (476)	149 (144)	1,044 (1,047)	550 (780)	2,242 (2,457)		
Totals	358 (298)	1,898 (1,157)	2 2 9 (188)	1,183 (1,157)	634 (853)	4,302 (3,653)		

Smallpox

Table showing number of Persons vaccinated against Smallpox in 1969

(Comparative figures for 1968 are given in parentheses)

	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Totals
Vaccinated Re-Vaccinated	10 (9) — (—)	418 (327) — (—)	511 (402) 9 (10)	66 (79) 218 (37)	(-) (-) (9)	1,005 (817) 227 (56)
Totals	10 (9)	418 (327)	520 (412)	284 (116)	(9)	1,232 (873)

Scarlet Fever

The incidence of 10 cases decreased from 35 compared with 1968, all in the 1-15 year age group and all of a mild nature.

Dysentery

86 cases of dysentery were notified in comparison with 98 in the preceding year, which represented only a small decrease.

Acute Poliomyelitis

For the twelth successive year no cases came to light and the following table summarises the vaccination campaign.

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations completed during 1969

Oral	Primary	Booster	Totals
0—1	1,411	5	1,416
2—5	355	599	954
6—15	140	537	677
Total	1,906	1,141	3,047

Infective Hepatitis

38 cases were reported.

Tuberculosis

During the year 8 new cases of pulmonary and 4 of the non-pulmonary type were reported compared with 2 and 4 cases respectively in 1968. Inward transfers of cases already notified elsewhere totalled 28, and these for the most part were arrested or quiescent and non-infectious but, of course, still subject to regular supervision.

Total number of Tuberculous persons remaining on Register at 31st December, 1969

	Pulm	onary	Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	M	F	
 Total on register at 31st December, 1968 New Cases Inward Transfers Removals Total on register at 31st 	193 4 17 9	129 4 9 6	21 2 1	27 2 1 2	
December, 1969	205	136	24	28	

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths Notified during 1969

	New Cases				Dea	iths		
Age Periods	Pulmo	onary		on- onary	Pulme	onary		on- onary
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	 _	_	_	_		_		
1—5	 _			_	_	_		_
5—15	 _			_	_			
15—25	 1	4	1	_			- 1	_
25—35	 1	_	_		_			_
35—45	 	_	_				_	_
45—55	 _		1	1		_		_
55—65	 1			1		_	_	
65 and upwards	 1		_	_				
Totals	 4	4	2	2				

Milk supplies in the District are submitted by the County Health Department for testing, and the results of their investigations are given below:

Tuberculous Milk Investigations—Routine Milk Samples for Biological Examination during the year 1969

Designation of Milk	Total No. of Samples.	No. Positive
Tuberculin Tested	10	Nil

SEWERAGE

Sewer extensions to serve Gilson, and Wantage Road, Coleshill were completed during the year.

A scheme for sewering Station Road, Coleshill was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.

A total of five public conveniences were completed towards the end of the year to serve the Chelmsley Wood Development. The public conveniences provided on both carriageways of the A.45 trunk road at Stonebridge, built in 1967, continued to be heavily used with approximately 152,700 pennies being fed into the coin locks of the closet compartments during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The various collection services have operated satisfactorily during the year. A large well equipped vehicle repair workshop was completed at the Council Depot.

Further progress was made with the replacement of pail closets and since 1960 a total of 446 closets have been replaced and a further 64 have been approved.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Inspections and visits made:	
Public Health Acts Nuisances Sewers and drains Ditches and water courses Filthy and verminous premises Infestations Infectious diseases Water supplies Moveable dwellings (other than caravans)	1,012 293 116 41 107 365 195
Noise Abatement Act Noise nuisances	45
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act Caravans and caravan sites	249
Housing Act Houses recorded Other visits Overcrowding	35 1,670
Food and Drugs Act Food premises (including registered premises) Food stalls and vehicles Bakehouses Slaughterhouses (premises) Food complaints (investigations) Food examination (including meat inspection)	658 51 9 69 90 1,268
Clean Air Act Survey visits (smoke control areas) Other inspections and visits	1,344 1,226
Factories Act Factories: Non-power Power Others	6 82 3
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act Offices and shops—recorded inspections Re-inspections Other visits	58 209 81
Rent Act	8
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act (excluding visits by rodent operator)	139

National Assistance Act, section 50	20
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	57
Miscellaneous	593
	10,106
Complaints investigated	1,583

Nuisances

Nuisances of various kinds reported and dealt with totalled 349.

The National Coal Board's "Homefire" plant at Keresley continued to cause nuisance from fumes and wind-borne dust, and was the subject of renewed complaints from residents in the vicinity. Fears were expressed that the emissions might constitute a danger to health, and although this seemed unlikely, enquiries were made about means of assessing the amount of 3:4 benz-pyrene in the air. Difficulties were met in obtaining the necessary sampling apparatus and in arranging for the complex and specialised analytical work to be done, and no effective progress had been made by the end of the year. Meanwhile, difficulties in operating the plant seem not to have been resolved.

No further action was taken regarding the problem of grit emission from the steam-raising plant at Coventry Colliery, Keresley, the Board having given an assurance that electric winding would be installed by mid-1970, thereby reducing steam requirements to a minimum.

Production of gas by the Lurgi process at the Coleshill works of the West Midlands Gas Board ceased during the year. The two oil-reforming plants on the same site are operated without significant nuisance.

Complaints were received about an alleged nuisance from a polluted water-course which receives the discharge from the village sewage works at Whitacre Heath. A new temporary purification plant installed by the Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority was brought into operation in December. Its performace could not be assessed during the year under review but it has since been disappointing.

The need for the Council's permanent disposal scheme remains.

The establishment of a business for cutting up, sorting and bagging unfit meat in a former slaughterhouse at Water Orton was referred to in the report for 1968, under the heading relating to the supervision of food. The Council failed in an attempt to prevent the new use under planning powers, the Minister ruling that there had been no material change of use for planning purposes. The new business appears to flourish but has caused no significant nuisance, although the premises are badly sited in relation to nearby residential and business properties.

Enforc	ement		
V	erbal warnings		171
	formal notices		358
			32
	4		1
	egai proceedings	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	1
	HOUS	SING	
Regist	er of Applications for	Council Houses	
Numb	er of applications on re	egister at end of year	•
	eneral needs		208
S	um clearance		
	General		4.4
	Old people	3	11
	gricultural		13
U	ld people (other than sl	um clearance)	104
			336
		0.60	402
Comp	arative total at end of 1	.968	403
Numb	er of dwellings available	for letting during yea	r:
	ew houses		86
	asual vacancies		00
C	less transfers to new ho		63
			149
House	s available for letting in	earlier years:	
	Building	Casual	
Year	Completions	Vacancies	Total
1968	48	53	101
1967	108	58	166
1966	10	43	53
1965	105	31	136
1964	37	72	109
Alloca	tions		
G	eneral needs		120
	eneral needs (old people		14
	um clearance	-	6
	um clearance (old peop		3
	griculture		1
			5
U	ther priorities, including	g Council stall	
			149

Exchanges approved

Between Council tenants	29
and tenants of other houses	
(including those owned by other Local Authorities)	1
_	
	30

The register of applications continues to provide a good indication of the housing requirements of the district since applications are not accepted from people who do not have a valid claim. total number of current applications has fallen steadily from year to year. A further significant factor, which is not evident from numbers alone, is that the degree of need in individual cases is generally much less than formerly. The Chelmsley Wood project, which continues to bring a large influx of new residents to the district, is not yet producing the expected secondary applications. In present circumstances, urgent cases of housing need can usually be resolved without much difficulty by allocations from casual vacancies, the incidence of which is increasing slightly. Most families from condemned houses have already been re-housed. Proposals for providing further new Council houses should meet the needs of the foreseeable future. Whilst there is still and may always be a waiting list for Council houses, the housing position in the Council's district is now generally satisfactory.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Clearance Areas

Number of orders mode	
Number of bases of ba	
Number of houses affected	
Number of orders confirmed	
Number of houses demolished	12
Single houses	
Number of demolition orders made	5
Number of houses demolished	25
Number of undertakings accepted	_
Number of closing orders made	
Houses made fit—	
by owners, voluntarily	35
by owners, after formal notices	9
by Council, in default of owners	_

In December, 1969, circular 92/69 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government asked for a fresh slum clearance programme to be submitted by the end of January, 1970, for the period 1970 to 1973. A rapid survey of the district confirmed that very little slum clearance remained to be done. A nominal programme was submitted, proposing to deal individually with some 146 unfit houses in the four-year period, including 51 carried forward from a previous

programme. There are no groups of unfit houses which would warrant making clearance orders, and the 146 single houses are mainly "borderline" cases of which some at least may be brought up to standard. Because of the scarcity and cost of building land, occasionally quite good houses are demolished voluntarily to make way for new building at higher site densities.

Overcrowding

The position at the end of the year was as follows:	
Number of private houses known to be overcrowded Number of Council houses known to be overcrowded Number of families involved	5 3 9 84
Cases relieved during year by Council	1
Cases relieved during year otherwise	
Houses in Multiple Occupation	2
Rent Act, 1957	
Applications for certificates of disrepair received during year Number of certificates of disrepair issued	3
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	

WATER SUPPLIES

Extent of supplies

Only 0.18% of all the houses in the district still do not have a public water main available for connection. The district is served by one or other of four statutory water undertakings, as shown in the table on page 27. There was no deficiency of supplies. Responsibility for maintenance of acceptable standards of purity rests mainly on the water authorities, each of which has the requisite professional and technical resources. Fourteen routine precautionary samples taken by the Council were reported satisfactory.

Samples were taken from private wells and springs, in some cases where new mains were under consideration and in others in the course of action to compel connections to mains. Thirty-one samples were reported satisfactory and ninety-seven unsatisfactory.

Provision of new water mains

It has been the Council's aim for many years that ultimately every house in their district should have a public water main available. To this end, they have promoted many main-laying schemes, which have involved them in guarantee payments to the respective water authorities. In order to secure the maximum benefit for the minimum outlay, attention has first been given to larger groups of houses to which mains could be taken most economically. The few houses which have still to be dealt with are in relatively isolated positions and may involve costs in excess of £2,000 per property.

However, most of the water mains in the district are already financially self-supporting from the Council's point of view. Guarantee obligations to the statutory water undertakings amount to little more than a one-penny rate, a very small burden on the community for a basic public health amenity to which every householder should be entitled. The fact that in future the cost per property will be relatively high should not therefore be a bar to further progress.

Two small schemes involving extensions of the mains at Cornets End, Berkswell, and Chapel Green in the parish of Fillongley, were completed during the year. Negotiations were started for two further schemes to provide for eight houses at Kinwalsey and six at Hollyberry End, but there were problems arising from the need for local storage and/or boosting, and no conclusions were reached.

The reluctance of a few owners to connect their houses to water mains has necessitated a return to the policy of compelling connections, by notices served under section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 as amended. The necessary services are sometimes long and costly. The enforcement procedure enables the Council to do the work in default, but they can recover the cost only up to £60 per house. This limit is no longer realistic. The Council's costs above it represent an additional subsidy to owners after the mains have been provided at public expense.

									Day I	Dwelli	ngs having w	Dwellings having water mains available	ilable
			Parish	ų;				Number of dwellings	without mains water available	Birmingham Water Department	Coventry Water Department	N.E.W'shire Water Board	S. Staffs Waterworks Co.
	Allesley					:	•	250			249		
	Arley	•	•	•	•	:	•	1,001		1	1	1,000	
	Astley	:	•	•	•	•	•	69				89	1
	Balsall	•	•	•	•	•	•	1,291	· 0		1,286	0,	
	Barston	•	•	•	•	:	:	170			169	1	
	Berkswell	:		•	•	•	•	818	2	1	816	1	
		•	•	•	•	•		1,208	~	1,203			
	Castle Bro	Bromwich	•	:		•	•	3,216		3,216	1		
	Coleshill	•	•	•	•	•	:	6,352	2	6,350		1	1
	Corley	•	•	:	:	•	•	252			252		
27	Curdworth	h	•	•	•	•	•	189		188		1	1
,	Fillongley		•	•	•	•	:	266	7	555		4	
	Hampton-in-A	Ľ	len	•	•	•	:	516			515	1	
	Keresley	:	•	:	•	•	•	230		,	230		
	Kingshurst	: :	•		•	•	•	5,618	1	5,618		1	
	Lea Marston	ton	•	•	•	•	:	95		94			
	Maxstoke	•	•	•	•	•	:	83	,	82		1	
	Meriden	•	•	•	:	•	•	783	12		771	1	
	Middleton					•	•	246	'				246
	Packington	n	•		•	•	•	63	m	55	S		
	Shustoke	•	•	:	•	•	•	214		214	1		
	Water Orton	ton		:	•	:	•	1,268		1,268			
	Nether Whitacre	'hitacre	:	•	•	•	•	287	_	286	0		
	Over Whitacre	itacre		•	•	•	•	106		106		1	
	Wishaw and Moxhull	nd Mo.	xhull	•	•	•	•	9		1	1		99
						L	Totals	24,956	45	19,235	4,293	1,072	311

SUPERVISION OF FOOD PRODUCTION AND HANDLING

Slaughterhouse and meat inspection

There are seven licensed slaughterhouses, all privately-owned, of which one ceased to be used during the year. Standards of maintenance are generally satisfactory and only minor items needed attention when applications for renewals of the licences were considered. All meat produced in the slaughterhouses is inspected on the premises. Particulars of the inspections and condemnations are given below.

Meat	Inspection
------	------------

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	3,048	377	110	25,535	9,162
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	3	2	8	103	27
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	874	134	7	6,657	3,038
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.8	36.1	13.6	26.5	33.5
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	entimates			_	4000malay
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	9	_		26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.29	2.38		_	0.28
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2		_	_	_
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	_			_	
Generalised and totally condemned			_	4945	_

The following table gives the total condemnations of unfit food by weight.

		Tuberc tons. cw		dis	nditi	and
Meat						
Cattle (excl	uding cows)					
•	Carcase meat		89		16	72
	Offals		54	3	0	49
Cows	Carcase meat	1	86		9	35
	Offals		60		14	104
Sheep	Carcase meat			2	0	64
	Offals			5	18	48
Pigs	Carcase meat	1	106	2	8	52
	Offals			1	12	30
Calves	Carcase meat		76		2	107
	Offals		•			6
	Totals	6	23	17	4	7
Other food		1		-'1	13	1.4
(various)				1	13	14

Complaints relating to food

Thirty-seven cases were investigated, mostly in respect of foreign bodies in food. Where the circumstances point to a simple accident not involving negligence, it has been customary to take only informal action. No formal proceedings were considered necessary in any of the cases but warnings were given where appropriate.

Poultry inspection

There are still no large producers of table poultry in the district. Four premises are known to be used more or less regularly for slaughtering and preparation on a limited scale, the total production amounting to about 16,000 birds a year, mainly chickens and hens, but including also a few turkeys. There is also some casual selling of prepared table poultry from farms. Apart from inspections of the premises under the Hygiene Regulations, only occasional visits are made for the purpose of judging the fitness of prepared poultry. Unfit and doubtful carcases are rejected by the persons operating the businesses, known rejections during the year being only about 40. The inspection of all prepared poultry at the places of slaughter is impracticable in the absence of a legal obligation to notify intention to slaughter. Casual inspections indicate that the quality of the poultry is generally good and there is little

reason to fear that unfit birds may be offered for sale. It is therefore questionable whether the public interest would benefit significantly from the inspection of all dressed poultry carcases, as is done with butchers' meat. The inspectors' time can be used to better effect in enforcing standards of hygiene in food premises generally.

Disposal of condemned food

Particular care has always been taken to ensure that all condemned food is properly disposed of, without risk that any of it might be used for human consumption. Since nearly all condemned meat is capable of use either for animal feeding or for commercial processing it has a monetary value. It is understandable therefore that its owners press to be allowed to sell it. Transactions of this kind are difficult to supervise and too much reliance has to be placed on private persons whose activities are not always known. It has therefore been customary to insist on the unfit meat being surrendered to the Council. It is then collected by a Council vehicle and, until recently, has been disposed of direct to one commercial processor in the area of a neighbouring authority.

A suspicion of an irregularity in the control at the processing premises led to a quick review of the situation and a decision to destroy all condemned meat in future. A new arrangement was therefore made for incineration at the destructor works of another neighbouring authority, on agreed terms. The cost of destruction of a saleable commodity is considered to be fully justified in protecting the public health. Without adequate safeguards in this respect, the whole purpose of meat inspection could be nullified.

Against a background of concern for the proper disposal of condemned meat, the continued activities at a former slaughterhouse at Water Orton are worthy of note. The problem is referred to under the 'nuisances' heading and was outlined in the report for 1968. Unsterilised unfit meat is obtained from slaughterhouses in the areas of other local authorities. After being sorted, cut up and bagged (but not sterilised) at Water Orton it is disposed of to a pet-food manufacturer in another Council's district. In fairness to the operator of the business, it should be said that there has been no reason to suspect any irregularity. His activities are within the various exemptions provided in the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations 1969, which also prescribe certain safeguards. Nevertheless the introduction of an 'intermediate' stage in the handling of unfit meat, between its production and ultimate disposal, remains a weak link in the chain of supervision.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

The following is a classified list of premises in the district to which these Regulations apply:

Category	Number inspected and recorded	Number complying with Regulation 16*	to which	Number complying with Regulation 19
Grocery	82	80	82	82
Grocery and General (not exclusively food)	48	45	48	48
Bread and cakes	8	8	8	8
Sweets and confectionery	43	43	43	43
Greengrocery	44	44	44	44
Butchery	37	36	37	37
Fish, wet and/or fried	14	14	14	14
Restaurants, Cafes, etc	40	40	40	40
Hotels and Licensed Premises	91	91	91	91
Ice-cream (incidental to				_
trades other than food)	6	6	6	6
Industrial Catering	43	43	43	43
Bakehouses	43 5 33	5	5	5
School Kitchens	33	32	33	33
	494	487	494	494

^{*} Regulation 16 requires the provision of wash-hand basins for the use of food personnel.

Registered food premises (Food and Drugs Act, 1955, section 6)

The following premises are registered:

Manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4
Sale only of ice-cream	163
Manufacture of sausage and/or	
cooked meat	21
Fish frying	14

Visits to food premises totalled 877. Contraventions of all kinds recorded in the course of inspections are summarised in the table below:

Defects of premises and lack of proper mainten-	
ance	316
Defective or inadequate equipment	68
Unhygienic practices	186
Contraventions involving food vehicles	24
	504
	394

Informal action was taken in respect of all the contraventions, many of which were of a minor character.

[†] Regulation 19 requires the provision of sinks for washing food and equipment where open food is handled.

Milk and Dairies

The following are registered as distributors of milk:

Retail dairymen having premises in the district	26
Shopkeepers selling bottled milk	57
	83

CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION

Smoke control orders

The following table gives the progress made to the end of 1969.

Order No.	Areas Controlled	Acreage	No. of dwellings	Operative date
1	Chelmsley Wood	1,840	644*	1st October, 1967
2	Kingshurst	348	2,836	1st October, 1968
3	Castle Bromwich (Timberley Ward)	96	838	1st October, 1969
4	Castle Bromwich (Park Hall and Whateley Wards)	168	1,356	1st October, 1970

^{*}The order was made in anticipation of large-scale housing development and will ultimately affect some 15,650 houses. The total at present controlled is about 9,200.

Preparations are in progress for making the next order (No. 5) in respect of the Bradford Ward of Castle Bromwich. This would complete an area of almost continuous, mainly residential, development between the Birmingham boundary and the more detached centres of rural population in open country to the east of the city.

Extensive enquiries made amongst householders affected by operative smoke control orders did not reveal difficulties in obtaining solid smokeless fuels, where supplies had been ordered in good time and where alternative kinds had been acceptable. No request was received for the suspension of an existing smoke control order. An increasing proportion of residents are choosing other forms of heating which are cleaner, more convenient and less liable to pollute the air than the best forms of solid-fuel domestic heating. All these alternatives are understood to be freely available and it should not be necessary to delay progress with new smoke control orders solely because of a temporary shortage of solid smokeless fuels.

Measurement of pollution

Monthly measurements of solid matter and sulphur in the air have been made almost continuously since 1949, with only brief accidental interruptions. Originally the principal interest was in the emissions from the Hams Hall electricity generating stations, and sites for the measuring apparatus were chosen appropriately. Other gauges operated elsewhere in the district for control purposes have since been withdrawn as the results from them ceased to be significant.

The monthly figures of insoluble solid deposits were at a relatively high level in the earliest years and there were wide fluctuations between summer and winter results. From 1961 to 1964 there was a steady fall in the monthly averages, which however have continued at about the same level for the past six years, with only minor variations between summer and winter. In the table which follows, the old units of measurement are used so as to maintain comparability.

Year	Average monthly deposit of insol- uable solids
1965	10.44 tons/sq. mile/month
1966	12.15
1967	10.10
1968	10.29
1969	11.22

The production of gas by the Lurgi process on a site quite near to the Hams Hall complex introduced a new source of pollution during 1964. The emissions from the plant apparently made little difference to the general level of industrial solid pollution, for two likely reasons: the boiler installation was small by comparison with the large multiple furnaces of the power station, and it had an efficient grit-arresting apparatus. Contrary to expectations, the effect on sulphur pollution was more apparent. Although the gas-producing plant included a process for the recovery of sulphur as a by-product, the three gauges sited nearest to the Lurgi works showed a distinct change of pattern when gas production began. Somewhat higher figures were maintained throughout the intervening years and there was an immediate reduction when gas-making by the Lurgi process ceased early in 1969. It is difficult to accept that the increase was entirely due to the flue-gas emissions from the boiler chimney. Although mainly affecting only three instruments, the increase is reflected in the monthly averages of all eight, which are given in the following table.

Year	Sulphur as ascertained by lead dioxide method (empirical units)
1962	1.05
1963	1.15
1964	1.22
1965	1.45
1966	1.32
1967	1.33
1968	1.29
1969	1.09

Without figures of coal consumption at the generating stations it is difficult to draw conclusions as to the relative efficiency of their grit-arresting arrangements from year to year. The measurements show that there has been no improvement since 1964. Although the stations are in open country, the grit and dust arising from them affects some 15,000 residents in the parishes of Lea Marston, Curdworth, Water Orton, Coleshill, Shustoke and Nether Whitacre, and other more distant parishes to a lesser extent.

The measurement of air-borne solids collected in open gauges is applicable only to the coarser matter arising from industrial sources. With the object of assessing the extent of pollution from domestic chimneys, sampling by a volumetric apparatus was introduced in 1962 and has since been maintained. Assessments are made (by a standardised method) of the darkness of smoke stains produced on a white filter paper through which volumes of air are passed. The apparatus is semi-automatic and although producing daily results it normally needs attention only at weekly intervals. sites are in use, at the Council's offices at Coleshill, and at Castle The results show pollution which is about the average for built-up residential areas, the readings at Castle Bromwich being generally somewhat higher than at Coleshill. As expected, both sites show wide variations between winter and summer levels of The results should provide means of assessing the longterm effect of the Council's smoke control programme.

CARAVANS AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year there were five permanent and seventeen temporary licensed sites, permitting a total of 213 caravans. The unsatisfactory situation regarding the largest site at Eaves Green, Meriden, was referred to in the 1968 report. By the end of 1969 progress had been made with the necessary improvements and work was continuing. All the other sites are provided with the necessary facilities and amenities and are satisfactorily conducted.

Proceedings were taken against the occupier of land at Elmdon for permitting its use as a caravan site without a licence, and a fine of £15 imposed, with £3 3s. 0d. costs.

Camping in tents is met with only occasionally, and then only for short periods for which licences are not required. There were a few visits to the district by families of "tinkers", who stayed only briefly, mainly on highway verges and lay-byes, but also in one or two cases on farm land. Usually their arrival gave rise to immediate protests from local residents. The Council's determination to take action in respect of the unlicensed use of land for residential caravans has been well publicised, and seems to be effective in keeping contraventions to a minimum.

No count has been made of caravans occupied by civil engineering workers engaged on road construction in the area. They are exempted from control under the Caravan Sites Act. Mostly they are provided with piped water and so sited as not to give rise to complaint. A few, occupied by more senior personnel, are placed away from the road construction sites and have been granted temporary licences in accordance with normal practice.

PEST CONTROL AND MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

The need for additional labour to cope with the increased volume of work was referred to in the previous report. A further problem arose during the year with a request for the regular collection and disposal of "medical" waste from clinics and private houses. The problem was most acute in smoke control areas in which many of the newer properties have no facilities for burning.

Although properly a refuse collection function which is the responsibility of the Engineer and Surveyor, it was ultimately decided that this rather personal and specialised service should be provided by manual staff supervised by the Public Health inspectors. An additional employee (a woman) was appointed in November. Although engaged primarily as a rodent operator and incidentally proving most competent in this respect, she began the collection service almost at once. In the short period to the end of the year there were indications that it would soon need most of one person's time.

Examination of representative sections of the public sewers confirmed the continued absence of rat infestations. The sewers have been virtually free of rats for some years. One formal notice had to be served in respect of an infestation of derelict privately-owned premises.

After a period of over twenty years in which bed-bugs had hardly been seen or heard of in the district, the problem arose in the newly-developed western parishes. Twenty-one cases of infestation were investigated and dealt with during the year. Mostly they involved modern houses, and clean, respectable households, sometimes as long as two years after the people had taken up residence. Often there was consternation—and sometimes indignation—when the insects were identified. Fortunately treatment by modern methods is straight-forward and effective, but searching enquiries

have failed to trace any obvious source. Fresh cases were being reported well into 1970. It is difficult to dissociate its origin from the large influx of population that has taken place in recent years.

The following table shows the work done in rodent control and other manual services.

Number of visits by rodent operators	2,032
Premises found to be infested with rats and/or mice and subsequently treated:—	
Domestic	518
Industrial and commercial	135
Sewer manholes baited	8
Drains examined	128
Disinfestations, etc	260
Collection and disposal of condemned food (visits):	
Meat	233
Other food	2
Collection and disposal of medical refuse	49

National Assistance Act, 1948, section 50

Five bodies were buried by the Council, in two cases because there were no known relatives to accept responsibility. The relatives responsible in the other three cases had insufficient means.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and general inspections are summarised in the following table:

Class of premises	Premises Registered during year	Total registered premises at end of year	General Inspections during year
Offices	3	97	56
Retail shops	37	263	177
Wholesale shops,			* ' '
warehouses		6	4
Catering establish-			
ments open to the			
_ public, canteens	7	66	29
Fuel storage depots		4	1
Totals	47	436	267

Visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises totalled 348 and 290 contraventions were recorded and dealt with. The contraventions were mostly of a minor character and readily remedied on request. No formal enforcement action was necessary.

Experience confirms the view, expressed in earlier reports, that an average frequency of one visit a year to registered premises is adequate for enforcement purposes. Although certain cases may require greater attention, in general there is little to be gained by inspecting much more frequently. The provisions of the Act are now fairly well understood and accepted by employers, with consequent benefit to the welfare of employees. The fact that inspections during 1969 were somewhat less than one a year on average seems not to have resulted in any lowering of standards of compliance.

Initial notifications on form O.S.R.1. are not always given as required by the Act unless specifically requested, and efforts are made to ensure that all premises which are subject to registration are in fact known and recorded.

Sixteen accidents to employees involving personal injuries all of a minor character, were notified during the year.

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in registered premises:

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices Retail shops Wholesale departments, warehouses Catering establishments open to the public Canteens Fuel storage depots	609 917 42 817 17 12
Total	2,414
Total Males	1,047
Total Females	1,367

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
(1)	(2)	Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
 (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local 	11	6		
Authority	165	3	18	
Total	186	91	20	

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions
(1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Refe To H.M. Inspector (4)		were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1			
Overcrowding (S.2)	_				_
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)		_	_	_	_
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)				_	
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):— (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or	_		_		Printerior.
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	7	_		-
(c) Not separate for sexes	_		_		Moreon
Other offences	1		_	_	
Total	10	8			errangen (FT-Green reconstructive philosophy)

Outworkers

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu- tions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel making						
etc.	1					
Total	. 1					



